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FOREIGN AND INSULAR

AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY—Examination of Rats for Plague Infection.

The following information is taken from bulletins issued by the department of public health of New South Wales:

During the month of January, 1911, there were destroyed 5,145 rats, of which number 1,711 were examined for plague infection. No plague-infected rats were found.

The last case of human plague was reported May 29, 1909.

The last plague-infected rat was found April 25, 1910.

CHINA.

AMOY—Smallpox.

The American vice consul reports March 13 the presence of smallpox.

HARBIN—Status of Plague.

Consul Greene reports February 7:

Plague is reported at Harbin and Fuchiatien as follows:

	Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, 1911.	Total since beginning Nov. 8, 1910.
Harbin.....	¹ 189	² 3 1,020
Fuchiatien.....	832	4,234
Total.....	1,021	5,254

¹ Including 9 Europeans.

² Including 341 bodies found by the sanitary brigade.

³ Including 27 Europeans.

These figures show a decrease in the average daily mortality of from 35 to 27 in Harbin and from 147 to 119 in Fuchiatien. On February 5 the total number of deaths reported at Fuchiatien was only 77. There is reason, therefore, to hope that here at least the epidemic is beginning to lose its force, though the decrease in numbers in the part of the population most liable to infection must be taken into consideration.

At the beginning of the week under review a cordon of Chinese soldiers was established around Fuchiatien, a body of 1,000 troops sent from Changchun being used for this purpose. The police were thus left free for duty within the town itself, which was divided into 4 precincts, communication between which was forbidden. In each precinct a sanitary substation was established, each with its corps of